

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



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* These minutes are subject to the approval of the Land Conservation Committee on 10/6/2015 *

MINUTES MEETING OF THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE USDA AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Leon Wolfe. Others present: Bartels, Hammer, Wang, Brandt, Lange, Loeffelholz, and Larson.
Excused: James, J. Wiegel

Larson stated that the agenda was posted in the USDA Service Center, by the County Clerk's Office, the Darlington Municipal Building, the Darlington Post Office, on the Lafayette County Webpage; and was sent to the press, the State Agencies, and NRCS. It was also sent to Representative Novak.

Motion was made by Hammer and second by Bartels to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bartels and second by Wang to approve the minutes of the 8/4/2015 LCC meeting.
Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Field Staff & Department Head Report:

Tech report by Brandt:

-Steve Esh, Belmont is working on a new farmstead with a diversion below the building, and above the pond. There is 75' from the septic to the diversion and 150' to the pond. The township is now questioning the safety of the driveway.

-Abandonment for Siegenthaler.

-Checked Greg's Feed & Seed for leakage from the pit. They went down 9' in 4 different spots. Even the one by the crack showed none. The next step is to get the liquid pumped out, then the compartments will come out. They will be spreading on silage ground. It was built in 1972, and was not able to be cost shared because the storage was under a building. The office preferred demo of the site, but the owner wants to take the slats out on the east end, empty, check for leakage, and fill 2' to 6'. They would then put in a big door and use it for storage. After the abandonment is done, DATCP will check for the commercial end of the storage. On the North side, the old Harvestore pads and feed area will have demo done too. At the time, the carousel was cutting edge, but Eastwood's had a lot of herd health problems.

-Hammer asked about the well on the County K project. They will need to hire plumbers to fill the well with bentonite. The Co. K Committee will need to pick a plumber, and they can designate someone from here to oversee. The committee meets on September 14.

-Wolfe asked about the Sonsalla project – Brandt had called him yesterday, because the deadline is October 1. He does have his permits. McDermott is ready to go also. Riley has a permit, but we haven't heard anything from them.

-Oak Ridge will not have any construction this fall.

Tech report from Lange:

-Hammer asked about the meeting with Kieler. Kieler has purchased 2 sections of eaves which will drain into the water tank. That is ok, but Lange told him he would now need to address the overflow from the tank. Lange suggested using 3" or bigger PVC pipe than the pipe. Is the water good? Lange responded it is coming off a tin roof and is good.

-Wolfe asked to correct his wife's name to Sondra on their AEA agreement. They will be meeting with Bevins tomorrow.

-83 Status Reviews have been completed. For the year, 29 are in full compliance, 50 are in partial compliance, and 4 Voluntary Notices of Non-compliance.

-Russell plan updates – added last year's 590 plans.

Loeffelholz stated:

-Glick, on the Crompton place, is hoping to lay out contours this fall. The dad wants to have them laid out. We would do the flag lines first.

-Steve Esh may take cost share, but is not sure yet.

-Henry R. Stoltzfus is building a new farmstead. The rock was very hard, but they are not allowed to blast. They called in Ivey's heavy equipment. They expected to be through it in 3 hours. Henry R. stopped them after 8-9 hours.

Land Information Update – Discussion & Possible Action: The Land Information Council met 2 weeks ago, and will meet again on Thursday. They recommend back-filling the position, with job description changes. They also support refilling the Tax Lister Position with possible title and job description changes. Loeffelholz also stated we are flexible in regard to the location and time worked, but would like to see assistance with fire numbers and septic information. This was supported by the Committee. Hammer made a motion that the LCC supports refilling the GIS Coordinator position with appropriate title and/or description changes, including time to assist Zoning with Fire Numbers and Septic Maintenance reports; and will support refilling the Tax Lister position with appropriate title and job description changes. Second by Bartels. Motion carried.

USDA Programs: Bartz was unable to attend, but did send a report from NRCS. (See Copy) The Committee commented that they appreciate that Bartz sends the report in her absence.

Other Agency Reports: None

Plastics Recycling: Wolfe stated that they met with both Bay and Stalsberg. They have 14 new dumpsters in Green County, and we are hoping to get some here as well. Delta Plastics will do the contracts with farmers for 14 more dumpsters at \$1,000 each. Delta has a government contract. It is best if the plastic is put in as soon as it taken off. This keeps off more water and dirt. Pick up would be once per week, once every 2 weeks, or once per month. The collected plastic will be baled in Green County, then goes to Arkansas. Farmers will need training. No net wrap will be accepted.

SAA Tour Report: David Hammer, SAA President reported on the August 6 meeting and tour in Richland County. The first site was a 650 cow dairy established by neighboring farmers after visiting Cottonwood Dairy. They milk 3 times a day, and have 18 employees. The farm has 2,100 acres most of which is in contour strips (about 500 fields). They sell kosher milk to Muscoda, and a Rabbi comes to the farm once a month. No milk from cows that have had surgery can be used as kosher, so there are separate barns for the regular herd and the Holy Cows. Next year they will be doing soil borings for a calf facility. Because they are CAFO size they are required to have a containment pond for rain events. Cottonwood is currently working on the same issue.

The second stop was a large dairy with a runoff issue from the feed storage area. A tank was installed to keep runoff from going into the wetland area next to it.

The third stop was Oakwood Orchard. A fire in 2000 destroyed the old family operation completely. The new facility has helped with marketing. With the new equipment, apples are floated with warm water from the baskets onto conveyor belts. Colder water can absorb into the apples. Computers sort the apples by size, weight, and color. They can even sort to choose the correct weight of apple to finish filling a bag. Labor used to be farm wives, who very dependable. Before lines were set to the slowest worker, now the computer gives more to the faster workers. People still do the final checks for eye appeal. Apples are still hand-picked. Trees are now planted in a more narrow row and with smaller trees. Fruit is set on the newer wood. This yields more apples per acre. Trees are also trimmed to be more flat, which allows more sunshine on the fruit. They have also added drip irrigation to be able to add water and fertilizer.

The final stop was an effigy mound North of Muscoda. Mark Cupp was the speaker. He gave history on the site and pointed out the different shapes at the site on top of the bluff. He also pointed out that at the Equinox, it lines up with the notch. There is also a large bird formation by the river there.

Conservation Observance Day was held August 14 at the Ralph & Sheila Petersheim farm in Viroqua. It was a very nice dairy, and had one cow that was 17 years old and is bred back. They were from Pennsylvania, and of Irish heritage. They do some rotational grazing. They also plant short-day corn early, harvest, then follow with sorghum, barley, or a similar crop.

Preliminary Budgets: 1) **Parks & Trails** – We show a -\$485 from the 2014 Fish & Game grant. Maurer would like to take that amount from the Yellowstone Flint & Cap donation. Loeffelholz hopes to use the rest to pay for repairs needed on the pipe at Black Hawk Memorial Park.

2) **LCD Budget** - A) the rent should be \$17,733 instead of \$17,720. B) Fixed Assets shows a carryover of \$7,492 from 2014. Loeffelholz asks that the carryover remain and be added to the 2016 budgeted \$10,000 for the purchase of a replacement vehicle in 2016. C) Maurer would like us to increase the budget amount for tree sales. Loeffelholz felt if that were done, we would be able to make that amount. Hammer stated that LCD is a department that will probably be revisited for budget.

3) **Planning & Zoning** – 2014 Carryover of \$25,353 from Non-metallic mining. This can be used to offset salaries for reclamation work, but it cannot all be used this year. He estimated we could use about \$5,000 for LCD time this year.

Discussion followed regarding the possible 2% raise, and whether that included the FICA increase. The insurance is not as bad as expected, but it is not down. Loeffelholz stated that he would like to keep the money for the vehicle replace, would like to include the increase for rent, and would like to keep the Non-metallic mining balance to be used, through time reports, to off-set LCD wages for Brandt, Larson, and Loeffelholz as allowed. Hammer stated that mid-September is proposed for budget hearings. Loeffelholz mentioned that the LCD budget will be off-set from the Planning & Zoning budget.

Motion by Hammer and second by Bartels to submit the proposed budgets with the numbers in yellow, only taking enough in the Park budget to pay the deficits, and to use the Yellowstone Flint and Cap funds to repair the pipe at Black Hawk Memorial Park. Motion carried.

Loeffelholz’ s work truck is scheduled to be replaced in January, 2017 and Lange’s in January, 2019.

In Correspondence: None

Approval of Vouchers: Motion to approve the vouchers by Hammer and second by Wang. Motion carried.

Future agenda items: Ag Plastics, Follow-up on Budget, Voluntary Notice of Non-Compliance

The next meeting of the LCC will be Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by Hammer and second by Wang to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. Motion carried.

Recorded By

Nikki Larson
For Leon Wolfe
LCC Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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